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FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1941

EASTER!

Easter, perhaps the most joyous event among adherents of Christianity, will be observed Sunday. It will commenorate the anniversary of the resurrection of Christ from the dead, and follows Good Friday, the most solemn of all Christian church events, which is observed in commemoration of the crucification of Christ.

While Good Friday is a day of mourning, Easter is one of gratification over the fulfillment of the promise that following His crucifixion on the cross, Christ would arise from the dead.

Easter, in a sense, seems to reveal the advent of actual Spring weather, marking the beginning of new life in those inanimate things that remain dormant during the Winter.

The ecclesiastical significance of Easter, like that of Christmas, is so closely intertwined with the activities of the secular world that it is a season of universal joyfulness, which finds expression in many directions. Yet, all that is done because Easter centers about the actual meaning of the occasion.

It is well that this is so, for it emphasizes the fact that the Bible still is the Rock of Ages.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE NEW JOB

Since January 1, 1940, monthly checks from the Federal Government have been going to retired workers past age 65 who were insured under the Social Security Act. When the retired worker has a wife also past 65 years of age, the monthly income is increased by a half. When an insured worker has died since January 1, 1940, and left young children, monthly payments are made to his family.

The amount of monthly retirement benefits received by an insured worker under the Social Security Act or the monthly income which his family gets in case of his death depends on his wages received in employment covered by the Federal old-age and survivors insurance system. That is the reason the worker should make certain the Government has a complete record of his wages.

This Federal insurance system is explained in a Social Security Board pamphlet entitled, "Old-Age and Survivors Insurance for Workers and Their Families". A copy of this pamphlet can be obtained free by writing or visiting the field office.

When Congress endorsed the lend-lease bill, it placed all the resources of this nation behind those other nations which are valiantly fighting for their very existence against the dictators. The lend-lease bill is America's emphatic answer to the liberty-destroying gospel of totalitarianism.

Our government has taken the position that democracy and dictatorship cannot live together. There cannot be, in other words, a world which is half slave and half free. There is on doubt in any thinking man's mind that this is a battle to the finish. In that battle, the potentially vast industrial production of America will be used to the limit. Tyranny again stalks half the earth, and we are committed to help stamp it out. There can be no question but what the great majority of the American people, with their heritage of freedom and their hate of despotism, support their government in this immense endeavor without qualifications.

The farmer and farm organizations have a real job ahead. For exmple, according to Fred H. Sexauer of the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association of New York, milk prices are not rising and probably will not rise as fast as defense and war boost costs.

Labor will be scarce, he added, and wages high. Farmers will have to pay more for everything they buy. As a result, it is expected that returns to dairymen, for some months at least, will be under the comparable period last year.

That means that the farmer must pay more attention to costs--more attention to increasing productive efficiency--more attention to markets, existing and potential. In that work, the marketing cooperatives will be the farmer's most effective ally.

Nothing is easier to bear than the troubles of your neighbors.

LABOR LAWS THAT ARE MAKING TROUBLE

By J. E. Jones

Washington, D. C., April 7--The Government of the United States---and that means the Administration and Congress--has been concerned for nmay years with questions and problems of new laws, boards, conciliators, and finally mediators to straighten out all questions of differences between the employers and workers of our country. The object of the Wagner Law was to create and protect "collective bargaining". These laws were hardly passed before the American Federation of Labor and a new group of union men, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, engaged in bitter opposition to each other. Workers in large industries were thoroughly organized by these big unions. The clash between them resulted in demands from President Roosevelt that they "get together", and work together. This culminated in an open break between the President and John L. Lewis during the last Presidential campaign--and they don't like each other any more.

The important point is that the new labor laws were passed for the purpose of preventing and stopping strikes and lockouts, and for the adjustment of industrial relations--through collective bargaining conducted by the executives of the industries and selected representatives of organized labor.

At the present time, Congress is completing a series of extraordinary legislation that is generally recognized as the National Defense Program. There has been a great show of political unity and everything indicates that the country at large approves of the unusual laws which have been passed as "emergencies". There has been no critism of the way in which contracts have been let by the Government to business institutions, because all questions of costs, including wages and hours, have been surveyed in order to protect the Government from over-paying contractors. These arrangements have included wages to employes based upon the Wage and Hour Act.

Notwithstanding the fact that the United States has always boasted about the loyalty of its workers and its so-called "common people" there have been unprecedented outbreaks of strikes. Before the defense factories had fairly gotten under way the War Department estimated that more than one million man-days of work had been lost by strikes in the first three months. Those figures represent only a fraction of the tragedy that has been taking place in Bethlehem, Milwaukee, and many other industrial centers.

Congressmen seem to be as puzzled as other folks. While there is a disposition in Washington to remain calm and cool, the strike situation is nevertheless regarded as a menace to expectations that the United States will successfully administer the Nationl Defense and Lend-Lease laws, and at the same time preserve peace and promote prosperity at home.

There is something very queer, and awfully serious about all these industrial upsets, and there is no use trying to minimize their importance.

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Republicans Aren't Sure

The Republican National Committee staged a harmony session in Washington at which Joseph W. Martin, Massachusetts editor and Congressman, yielded to the pressure that he remain Chairman of the Committee. On the same day Wendell Willkie was being cheered as a World hero in Toronto, because of his belief that the United States should "give every ship, and more than every ship that is free and unnecessary, give ships until it hurts, keep them going and victory then is sure".

The fact is, Willkie is so many jumps ahead of the old established leadership of his party, that began with Abraham Lincoln as President, that the National Committee skipped enumerating its policies. Silence seems to be golden in these days when no one knows for certain boom as a leader, or blow up. That's a genuine puzzle in Washington political circles today. But the politicians all know that, right or wrong, Willkie is a popular hero at the present time.

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Subsidizing The Airways

Two great American airlines will get huge subsidies from the Government, which is a clear-cut decision against monopoly in our overseas plane services. Business on the airways between the United States and open ports like Lisbon, is rushing; and as it grows in popular favor it is sure to interfere with the ship companies. That's another thing to start worrying about.

A man with a grievance never misses an opportunity to mention it.

"MUST" LEGISLATION PROGRAM INAUGURATED BY GOVERNOR, MEETS WITH REMARKABLE SUCCESS

The 1941 Legislature, spurred on to new records of work and accomplishments by the urging of Governor Herbert R. O'Conor, said goodbye to Annapolis, leaving behind a mass of Administration-sponsored measures that affect vitally every major department and agency of the State.

With remarkably few exceptions--four in all--the Administration Program was carried through to a successful conclusion, no less than fifty-eight measures having been passed with Administration approval and support.

As a result of recommendations by Governor O'Conor, provision was made for the lowest Real Estate Tax in twenty years; for important reductions in income taxes that will save the taxpayers of the State $4,500,000.00 in the coming two years; and the smallest bond issue bill for construction in more than a decade.

A controversial issue of many years' standing was settled with general satisfaction by the passage of Senate Bill 310, providing for unified control of the natural resources of the State, and assigning to this new agency the Departments of Forestry and Geology, and the Chespeake Bay Marine Laboratory at Solomons, all of which have been under the University of Maryland.

Ferry Purchase Okayed

Authorization for the purchase of the Claiborne-Annapolis Ferry headed a long list of constructive roads legislation, which list included also measures for speeding right-of-way purchases, and giving the State Roads much greater control over the areas surrounding the main highways to be built.

Along with the roads legislation, bills of the greatest importance were put through establishing by law Governor O'Conor's Maryland Traffic Safety Commission, and providing for the Commission a control statistical bureau that will be the basis of all accident studies in this State, and a model to the other sttes of the country.

Parents, as wel as Civic and Social organizations throughout the State were made happy by the passage of the Anti-Fireworks Bill, which, defeated two years ago by the margin of one vote, now provides that after October 1, 1941, no fireworks may be bought by, or sold to individuals, requiring that such displays can be staged only under expert supervision.

State Employees Benefit

The many employees of the State Departments hailed the establishment of a State Employees' Retirement System based on an actuarial basis, to replace the various retirement systems in effect hitherto. Important, too, to wage earners was the bill legalizing the separation of the State Accident Fund from the State Industrial Accident Commission, and providing a board of five to administer the fund. Equalization of colored and white school teachers' salaries, and amendments to the Workmen's Compensation law were among additional acts passed of interest to labor.

In furtherance of National Defense activities within the State, legislation was enacted establishing a State Defense Council, as well as bills to prevent sabotage and for the control of explosives, both of which bore the sanction of Federal authorities.

Among a number of measures passed at the instance of the State Insurance Commissioner, to safeguard holders of policies within the State, was one regulating the registration of insurance advisors, and another one looking to the control of hazards from fire and explosions.

Legislative Council Aided

Not the least of the factors that helped to bring about the satisfactory condition at the close of the Legislature was the work of the Lesislative Council, which, sponsored two years ago by Governor O'Conor and enacted into law by his signature, fully justified the lavish predictions that had been made as to its possibilities.

Reports to the effect that the Federal government is planning to establish some sort of a new labor mediation board, with wide powers, should not come as a surprise.

Certain segments of labor have shown themselves completely irresponsible. They have delayed the defense drive. They have stopped production in important factories. They have, in short, taken advantage of the nation's need to "demand the moon".

There seems to be no other solution than aggressive governmental intervention in labor disputes. About all the radicals in labor have achieved is to place the labor movement in disrepute in the minds of millions of Americans.

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